

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

January 12, 2019

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Megan Diorio, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Carol McCullough, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams
Excused: Chris Soares
Guest: Don Rankin

Call to Order:

President, Marshall Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:47.

- Marshall thanked Paula for her years of service as President.
- Don Rankin was introduced as a potential new board member.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the November meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- The annual report showed a profit of \$2900 for 2018; with a current balance of over 16K.
- The checks that were mailed for our charitable contributions cleared.
- We will review in the next year or two if and what type of contribution we may make as a unit to the 2021 Summer NABC to be held in Providence.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 475 members as of January 1, 2019 a loss of 37 from the September 1 membership number of 512.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
 - Credit card entries will be available to buy vouchers, good only at District 25 Regionals; beginning in Cromwell in February 2019. Vouchers will be sold for \$15 each, good for one entry. Players that buy an entry for a 299 game will receive \$2 back from the director when they get their entry. 5,000 vouchers were printed with a security feature that does not allow copying. They will not be sold by the Directors but by Joe Brouillard, District 25 Treasurer and Lois DeBlois, District 25 President. There will be no expiration date. Bridge bucks that can be purchased at the Nationals can be used at Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals.
 - This April there will be a 00 – 750 event in Sturbridge in addition to the GNTS on Sunday for C players. It is called the Gold Mine and is being heavily promoted additionally outside of District 25.

- There will be updates after the Cromwell Executive Board Meeting.

Old Business:

- bRidge Bits – Compliments to Carol on the most recent bRidge Bits. Carol will make note of our charitable contributions in the next edition. She will also add information about the new Regional Vouchers. Typically, the newsletter goes out three to four weeks prior to a sectional. March 1 is the deadline for the next bRidge Bits.
- January 26/27 Sectional:
 - Chris and Charleen will be the Sunday hosts. Meghan volunteered to host on Saturday.
 - Charleen and Bea Martini have volunteered to get additional soda so that we can offer them. Carol McCullough suggested contacting Stop & Shops Peapod to see if we could get sodas delivered for future sectionals. Paula was tasked with contacting Randy to see if he would bring the soda inside. There was additional discussion about soda including if Peapod wasn't viable to perhaps contact the nearby liquor store to see if they would deliver.
 - Charleen contacted Piezoni's regarding sandwiches and pizza for our sectionals. We will begin using them for the January sectional. They will provide sheet pizzas for \$25 per pizza, any one topping. The sheet provides 16 slices. She will call the order in using the same calculations for previous orders but divided by 2. The total price should be the same as what we were paying. Piezoni's will provide free soda on Sunday. The price for the subs and salads will be \$7 each. Not sure if that includes tax or not.
 - Gala – Maureen Fahey asked if we wanted to hold the Gala again in Johnston and if she should book. The response was for her to book October 19. The only conflict will be with Central Mass and Maine holding Sectionals.
- March Sectional:
 - Meg will host on Saturday and Maureen will host on Sunday. Julie will do the pizza order and Diane will do the sandwiches.

New Business:

- Bridgemates:
 - Julie Goulet has been working with a couple of the clubs that have reported some issues with their BridgeMates. She contacted Joe Steele who was very helpful. We do not have a service contract on them but they are long lived if properly maintained. This should include regular cleaning. Julie found a site with a "How to Guide" which included how to clean the BridgeMates. Mike McDonald cleaned two of his that had not been working and now they are working. Julie recommended that since the RI Board owns the BridgeMates, we should ensure that they are cleaned. The replacement cost for each BridgeMate is \$167 if ordering 10. There are no refurbished ones available for our model. Each Club Owner signed a contract stating that they were responsible for maintaining the BridgeMates. After

discussion it was decided that Meg Gousie and Julie Goulet will contact each Club to demonstrate how to clean the BridgeMates and to do the cleaning for them. The cleaning of the BridgeMates should be revisited every 18 months.

- There is a software update for the BridgMates and Joe Brouillard contacted the Director in Charge of our January Sectional and we should not update the BridgeMates until after the sectional. They will need to be updated before March. Joe will contact the club owners to make the updates.
- It was voted unanimously to have Don Rankin join the Board.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - April 6 at 10:45
 - June 1 at 10:45
 - September 7 at 10:45

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.